

Amendment
Serial No. 09/954,657

Docket No. DE000148

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-12 are pending and stand rejected. Claim 1 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12 has been amended. Claim 9 has been canceled.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junqua (USP no. 6,415,257) in view of Partovi (USP no. 6,807,574).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with and explicitly traverses the reason for rejecting the claims. However, in the interest of advancing the prosecution of this matter, the independent claims have been amended to more clearly state the invention. More specifically, the independent claims have been amended to include the subject matter recited in claim 9. Although the subject matter recited in claim 9 was rejected as being obvious, it will be shown that the cited references fail to render obvious the invention claimed in the independent claims, as amended.

As the subject matter recited in claim 9 has been rejected with regard to the combination of Junqua, Partovi and Larsen, the rejection of the independent claims, which have been amended to include the subject matter of claim 9, is addressed with regard to the combination of the three references.

Junqua recites a system for identifying and adapting a TV-user profile by means of speech technology that controls interaction with television using speech, whereby each user of the system may have a set of determined preferences that are automatically selected through identification/verification of the speaker's voice. (see col. 1, lines 8-11). Junqua more specifically teaches a system wherein a "number 'T' of training speakers provide a corpus of training data upon which the eigenspace will be constructed." (see col. 8, lines 12-13). The "training data are then used to train a speaker dependent model ... One model per speaker is constructed ... with each model representing the entire inventory of sound units that is to be understood by the recognition system." (see col. 8, lines 16-20). "After all training data from T speakers have been used to train the respective speaker dependent model, a set of T supervectors is constructed." (see col. 8, lines 39-43). Junqua further teaches that "[f]or speaker identification, the new user data

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is assigned to the closest training speaker in eigenspace ... The system will thus identify the new speech as being that of the prior training speaker whose data point or data distribution lies closest to the new speaker in eigenspace." (see col. 9, line 65 – col. 10, line 3). "Once the eigenvoice space has been constructed, speaker normalization, speaker adaptation or environment adaptation can be readily accomplished... The speaker dependent mode can be trained in either a supervised mode, where the training system speech recognition system uses a speaker independent mode to determine the content of the adaptation speech." (see col. 10, lines 28-42).

Hence, Junqua discusses developing a plurality of speech models of a plurality of training users and selects that speech model closest in eigenspace that matches a new user. Junqua discloses the construction of the speech models for new users but the construction of models based on the content and speech characteristics of the T trainers. The speech model that is the closest match in the eigenspace to a user's speech data (i.e., content and speech characteristics) is selected and adapted for subsequent recognition processing. Junqua fails to disclose "deriving user models from determined details about the style of speech of user inputs and/or details about interactions in dialogs between users and the dialog system (1), wherein the style of speech is determined based on factors selected from the group consisting of: the number of polite phrases used, address used, speech level, information density, vocabulary and use of foreign words, number of different words and classification of words of speech inputs with respect to rare occurrence," as is recited in the claims.

Partovi discloses a method and apparatus for providing personalized information content over telephone lines. Partovi discloses that the personalized content is specific to the user based on her/his telephone identifying information and may be further customized based on the time, date, the calling party's dialect and speech pattern. Partovi further discloses that embodiments of the invention will immediately present a caller personalized content based on her/his profile using the appropriate dialect as well as the caller's preferred content. (see abstract).

Larsen teaches an experiment for determining a dialogue management strategy wherein an inexperienced user may prefer to use a direct system and an experienced user

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may prefer to use a shorter system. Larsen teaches that "the user must be able to use unconstrained natural speech [and] this often calls for an elaborate model. ... However, when addressing well structured tasks as the present one, this might be avoided and a much simpler model can be employed." (see page 68, lines 1-5).

However, contrary to the statements made in the Office Action, Larsen fails to teach that the system outputs are of a first length when the user is inexperienced and a short length when the user is experienced.

A claimed invention is *prima facie* obvious when three basic criteria are met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the teachings therein. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. And, third, the prior art reference or combined references must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.

Junqua, Partovi and Larsen, individually and in combination, fail to teach or suggest material elements claimed in the independent claims, thus the invention, as recited in the independent claims 1, 7 and 8 are not rendered obvious by the cited references as the combination of the teachings of Junqua, Partovi and Larsen does not include all the elements claimed.

For the above remarks, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of these claims.

With regard to the remaining claims, these claims ultimately depend from the independent claims which have been shown to contain subject matter not disclosed by, and, hence, allowable over, the reference cited. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable by virtue of their dependency from an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of these claims.

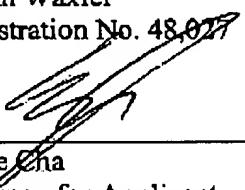
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For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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